

Around the Council Table

Department of public works was granted permission to contract with Edward Killam for digging a cesspool at the new municipal park. The pool will be 30 to 40 feet deep, and Killam has agreed to do the work at \$11.10 a foot.

Torrance Electric Shop was granted an increase of \$6.00 per month for servicing street lights, due to the increased number of lights now burning. Councilmen agreed to upping the charge from \$10 to \$16 a month.

Union Oil Company granted the city permission to move its pipe line 10 feet in order to facilitate development of the municipal park.

Deed was accepted from the Dominguez Land Corporation for Lot 8 in Tract 2675, to permit the extension westerly of Eldorado avenue from a short distance east of Maple avenue to Madrona avenue.

Fire department was granted permission to purchase a used air compressor at \$50, to be used in inflating fire truck tires.

Mayor Klusman reported that he attended an informal meeting of Metropolitan sewer district directors recently, and after two hours of wrangling over whether to admit the public to the meeting, the group adjourned without accomplishing anything.

Answering requests from unemployed as to the possibility of

Chooses Death



For 15 years Harry Bushnell lived as a respected citizen in Montana, he claimed, but when arrested for questioning in the death of an aged couple, it was learned he was wanted in Michigan for prison escape. Rather than face local trial or extradition he committed suicide.

securing work on the San Gabriel dam. City Engineer Leonard reported that this work was being done largely by steam shovels, and if there were any experienced steam shovel operators desirous of securing employment on the county project, Leonard stated that he would be glad to forward their applications. Leonard stated that he was sure Torrance would get its share of the work, providing experienced men were available here.

Notes From Washington

By Charles J. Colden
Congressman-elect, 17th District

The joint resolution appropriating five million dollars for the relief of the victims of the earthquake in Southern California slipped through the Senate without a struggle but it has had rough sledding in the House. The House appropriation committee examined it with a microscope and members shook their heads with skepticism. The old much-worn and much-used excuse that there was no precedent for the government to loan money for the rebuilding of homes was somewhat shattered when Senator McAdoo called the attention of the House committee to the fact

that after the Porto Rico hurricane more than ten million was appropriated and much was used for the rebuilding of homes, schools and roads.

For three mornings a number of the California members including myself wrangled with the committee. A representative of the Red Cross discounted our efforts by reporting that his agency was prepared to take care of the distressed and suffering for the time. Finally the House committee reported an amendment authorizing the Reconstruction Finance Corporation to make loans to those whose homes and buildings were destroyed or partially destroyed.

When this bill was reported to the floor of the House it was vigorously attacked by Snell of New York, Britten of Chicago, Woodrum of Virginia and Blanton of Texas. Buchanan of Texas, chairman of the House committee, made a valiant fight for it, ably seconded by Lea, Evans, Stubbs, Dockweiler and Ford. Others were unable to get the floor because of the limitation of time. One of the obstructionists moved

to re-refer the bill to the committee for the purpose of tying it up indefinitely. Upon a standing vote the motion to strangle the measure was carried but the proponents of the measure demanded a roll-call. As it requires nearly 30 minutes to call the roll a few of us got busy with a button-hole campaign and talked enough votes to defeat the enemies of the bill by a margin of 66 votes. Because of the noise and din and the plethora of speeches I believe I made more votes by a button-hole campaign, than I could by one of those speeches that Doc McQuarrie razzes me about.

Snell of New York and Britten of Illinois burned me all up because the corporations in their states have been the recipients of billions of loans from the R. F. C. I can't understand the psychology of a member who favors the pouring out of billions to big business and then squawks because a home-owner is enabled to borrow a few hundred dollars with which to repair and rebuild his home. The bill as passed was referred to a conference committee to iron out the differences between the House and the Senate and we are thankful that some assistance will be rendered our unfortunate friends back home.

I have had so many inquiries about post offices that I am making a public statement for the benefit of the applicants and the public. And I still cling to the idea that the public has some rights in this matter although a few of my eager Democratic friends appear to take the position that the first duty of mine is to kick all of our present postmasters into the street.

My information is that it was President Wilson during the latter part of his term who placed the postmasters under civil service and fixed a term of four years. The succeeding Republican presidents followed that rule with some later modifications. The result was that the Democratic postmasters appointed under Wilson held office for some time under a Republican president. Under the same rule many of the terms of the present Republican postmasters will extend far into the term of the present administration unless the order is modified.

All of the postoffices in the Seventeenth district are under civil service and all applicants are subject to an examination under civil service. To be eligible to take the examination or the test one must be a citizen of the United States, must have been a resident patron of the office for the two prior years to application, and must be over 21 years of age and under 65. Candidates for third-class offices must be assembled and take a written examination in accounts and arithmetic, penmanship, letter writing and business training, experience and fitness. Applicants for first and second-class offices will not be assembled but will be rated by civil service agents on the basis of 20 points on education and training and 80 points on business experience and fitness.

No applications will be accepted until an examination is announced for the office sought. Further information can be obtained by writing the Civil Service Commission, Washington, D. C., for Form 2223. Application blanks can be obtained from the same source after the examination is announced.

After the examinations are held and the ratings made, the civil service commission certifies to the three highest who are eligible to the appointment. The circulation of petitions or the obtaining of testimonials from politicians, committeemen and prominent citizens is a waste of time and effort until the applicant has passed the examination and is one of the three highest. Veterans of the World War are credited with five points because of their service.

After the examinations, if the present custom applies, the member of Congress may make a recommendation which will have some weight, but his opinion is subject to the superior authority of the postmaster-general, the president and the Senate. And the member of your district will take into consideration the welfare and wishes of the patrons of the office. While he will take into consideration the politics of the applicant, from the precedent set by the president, the progressive Republican who supported the Democratic ticket will not be beyond the bounds of consideration. It is my purpose to give all applicants fair notice with an opportunity to present their claims according to the established rules and regulations.

The following is a list of the postoffices in the Seventeenth district with the salaries, less the 15 per cent cut, the class and the time of the expiration of the present term:

Avalon, class 2, salary \$2800,

law him out if I hadn't done the same thing. I worried about Congressman John Burke of Long Beach. I may be obliged to use restraint to keep him here. He burst into my office this morning and excitedly exclaimed: "Think of spending all day Sunday in this lonesome, dreary, dismal, drizzling town what I might be at home sprawled out on the floor reading the funnies to the kids." He said more but I'm just quoting what is fit to print. Two events I enjoy in Washington: Listening to the Kingfish ripping Wall Street publicly and to Vice President Garner cussing privately. Joe Shannon borrowed my copy of the description of the earthquake by C. P. Roberts of the Wilmington Press. Fortunately he did not remember that the same gentleman wrote the whole story that nearly finished me.

STORY 2

Continued from Page 1

no purchasers pending the outcome of the Wilcox suit. Los Angeles city also had several projects pending, it was declared in an affidavit asking for an early decision on the points involved.

Ludlow Wants Action

Following the reading of the supreme court decision at Tuesday night's city council meeting, Councilman Ludlow advocated the immediate drilling of wells and the construction of a reservoir, aerating and pumping plant, and such other work as could be done during the negotiations with the present water company for the purchase of its distributing system. Ludlow argued that the units above mentioned would have to be built whether the city purchases the present pipe lines or decided to construct a parallel distributing system; and that if this work could be started at once, it would provide employment.

Mayor Delays

Mayor Klusman discouraged the immediate action advocated by Ludlow, stating that the special water committee was negotiating with the water company and had already requested a statement of its physical assets. "We may not be able to deal with the water company," said Klusman.

B. Smith Attacks

Beverly Smith, president of the local taxpayers league, told the mayor that he heartily concurred with Councilman Ludlow. "We've been told the water question is in the hands of the courts for the last three years, and we don't want to be told that it is in the hands of the committee for another three years," said Mr. Smith.

Mayor Klusman replied that the special water committee held a meeting Tuesday.

R. F. C. Loan

Councilman Ludlow also asked if it would not be wise to contact the Reconstruction Finance Cor-

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OFFICIAL PAPER OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE
Adjudicated a Legal Newspaper of Los Angeles County, Superior Court Case No. 218470, Dated March 22, 1927.

New Building Code Adopted As Emergency

Local building contractors today were familiarizing themselves with the provisions of the new building code adopted as an emergency measure by the board of supervisors Monday after a prolonged session. The new code will be effective in unincorporated area

adjacent to Torrance and throughout the county.

Fatigued closely after the code adopted by the city of Santa Barbara after its disastrous quake and more disastrous fire of 1925, the new ordinance sets up practically every requirement possible in an endeavor to make all types of buildings safer.

Perhaps of primary importance is the provision requiring that all brick building walls be constructed with a reinforced concrete bondstone at the top of each floor. A bondstone, it is explained, is a binding member running through a wall from face to face.

Builders will be required to use non-combustible lath in structures. Cement mortar must consist of not more than five parts of sand to one part of cement and one part lime. In some of the Long Beach school buildings it was disclosed that the mixtures ran as low as one part cement to 12 parts sand. Lime used in the mortar must be slacked for 14 days.

"Bricks must be laid wet and in a full bed of mortar.

Plans and specifications for every building in unincorporated territory that is to be built, rebuilt, repaired or altered, must, under the provisions of the new ordinance, be submitted to the county regional planning commission in the annex to the Hall of Records at 202 North Broadway. The ordinance, already in effect, builders are informed, as the ordinance contained an emergency clause.

Violation is punishable by a \$500 fine or six months imprisonment or both.

Several cities were reported to be considering adoption of the ordinance in almost identical form.

poration at once in an effort to determine if the federal agency would purchase the bonds, but this move was also discouraged by the mayor. City Attorney Jensen questioned whether the R. F. C. could purchase the bonds at present due to the present restriction on R. F. C. loans to self-liquidating projects; but stated that federal legislation was now in progress whereby the R. F. C. could finance projects which were not wholly self-liquidating.

Councilman Wright suggested that the legal and finance committees on the council be allowed to proceed with the financial end of the water project, while the special water committee was negotiating with the water company, but no action was taken, and the whole matter was held up until the council could meet as a committee of the whole and go over the question more thoroughly.

Mayor Klusman characterized the supreme court decision as "a clean cut victory—without any strings on it."



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PINK SALMON	No. 1 2 cans 20c	one extra 1c
TOMATO SAUCE	3 cans 10c	one extra 1c
MARGARINE NUTLEY	2 lbs. 18c	one extra 1c
PALMOLIVE SOAP	2 bars 14c	one extra 1c
WALDORF TISSUE	2 rolls 10c	one extra 1c
MARCO DOG FOOD	3 cans 17c	one extra 1c
QUAKER OATS	2 small pkgs. 14c	one extra 1c
SPAGHETTI ENCORE	2 cans 15c	one extra 1c
APPLE SAUCE FANCY	2 cans 20c	one extra 1c

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BAKING FOWL COLORED SWIFT'S PREMIUM... FRESH KILLED	lb. 27c
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